

**EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EU746729214US**

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT  
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February 27, 2004

**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL**

Attorney Docket Number: **63351.000013**

First Named Inventor: **WILLIAM G. DENNIS**

Title: **SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SEAL ASSEMBLY**

Customer No. **27682**

TO: **MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached are the following for filing with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

1. ☐ Fee Transmittal Form (original and duplicate)
2. ☒ Small Entity Status Claimed:  

☐ Independent Inventor  
☒ Small Business Concern  
☐ Non-Profit Organization

  
☐ Statement Enclosed  
☐ Statement Filed in Prior Application; Status Still Proper and Desired
3. ☒ A new specification is enclosed which contains the desired set of claims for publication. This application includes 12 pages of specification, 4 pages of claims (claims 1-16), 1 page of abstract and 7 pages of figures (figures 1-8)

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CLAIMS AS FILED						
	Claims Filed	Basic Fee Claims	Extra	Rate		Amount
				Large Entity	Small Entity	
Total Claims	16	20	0	\$ 18.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 0.00
Independent Claims	3	3	0	\$ 86.00	\$ 43.00	\$ 0.00
First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claims				\$ 290.00	\$ 145.00	\$ 0.00
<b>BASIC FEE</b>				\$ 770.00	\$ 385.00	\$ 385.00
<b>TOTAL FILING FEE</b>						\$ 385.00
Assignment Recordation Fee						\$ 0.00
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>						<b>\$ 385.00</b>

4. ☒ Drawings - Total Sheets: 7 (Fig(s). 1-8)
5. Oath or Declaration - Total Pages: 3
- a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)  
☒ New (unexecuted) Declaration and Power of Attorney from current owner.
- b. ☒ Copy from a prior application  
(for continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed)
- i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(s):**  
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in prior application.
6. ☐ Application Data Sheet
7. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
8. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
- a. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CRF)
- b. ☐ Specification Sequence Listing on:

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- i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (two copies); or
  - ii. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
  - c. ☐ Statements verifying identity of above copies
- 9. ☐ Assignee/Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Assignment and Assignment Recordation Form Submitted Herewith
- ☐ Assignee of Record in Prior Application No. \_\_\_\_\_ :  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ recorded on \_\_\_\_\_ at Reel \_\_\_\_\_, Frame \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10. ☐ 37 C.F.R. 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney
- 11. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
- 12. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement with PTO-1449 Form
- ☐ Copies of Information Disclosure Statement Citations
- 13. ☒ Please note that a three month Petition for Extension of Time is concurrently filed in parent Patent Application No. 10/112,625 in response to the Office Action dated September 2, 2003.
- 14. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- 15. ☒ Priority is Claimed as Follows:  
The application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/112,625, filed March 28, 2002, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Ser. No. 09/885,856, filed June 20, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Ser. No. 09/434,608, filed November 5, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,258,065, which claims the benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/126,356 filed on March 26, 1999.

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- ☐ Also claims benefit of the following U.S. Provisional Application No(s).:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ If Foreign Priority is Claimed, Certified Copy of the Above Priority Document(s) is Submitted Herewith
16. ☐ Nonpublication Request under 35 U.S.C. § 122(b)(2)(B)(i). Applicant must attach Form PTO/SB/35 or its equivalent.
17. ☒ Other: Express Mail Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10
18. ☒ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-Part of:  
U.S. Patent Application Nos. This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 10/112,625, filed March 8, 2002, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Ser. No. 09/885,856, filed June 20, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Ser. No. 09/434,608, filed November 5, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,258,065, which claims the benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/126,356 filed on March 26, 1999
- Prior application information: Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Group Art Unit \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 5b is marked)  
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application papers.
- ☐ Complete Application Based on Provisional Application No(s).:
19. Please address all correspondence to:
- ☒ **CUSTOMER NUMBER 27682**

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**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**

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20. ☒ Check No. 379252 in the amount of \$ 385.00 is enclosed. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges, please charge or credit any such variance to **Deposit Account No. 08-3436**.
- ☐ The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ and any additional amount that may be required by the filing of this patent application to **Deposit Account No. 08-3436**.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



David E. Baker

Registration No. 42,285

Enclosures

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EU746729214US

Attorney Docket No. 63351.000013

Attorney Customer No. 27682

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re U.S. Patent Application of:

William G. Dennis et al.

Application No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: February 27, 2004

Title: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT  
SEAL ASSEMBLY

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

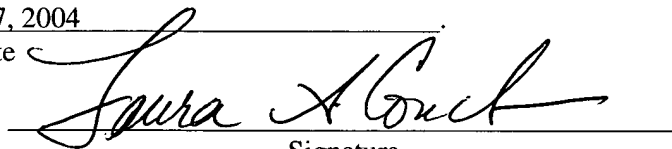
Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service  
with sufficient postage as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on February 27, 2004

Date



Signature

Laura A. Couch

Typed or printed name of person signing Certificate

Documents being submitted with this Certificate of Express Mailing include:

- Utility Patent Application Transmittal (for a Continuation)
- New specification is enclosed which contains the desired set of claims for publication. This Continuation application includes 12 pages of specification, 4 pages claims, 1 page of abstract and 7 pages of figures
- Copy the Executed Declaration and Power of Attorney from a prior application as well as an unsigned Declaration and Power of Attorney from the Current Owner
- Information Disclosure Statement and PTO-1449 Form
- Check No. 379252 in the amount of \$385.00 for the patent application filing fee (small entity)
- Self Address Stamped Return Postcard

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